

were seriously wounded. Lake County Major Crimes Taskforce investigated the crime and had murder warrants. Detective Rivera then developed an operational plan to take the suspect into custody. The detective used his informant to lure the suspect to a location on July 3, 2007, to discuss doing another robbery. Members of the North Chicago SWAT team arrested the suspect upon his arrival.

Last August Detective Rivera used an informant to infiltrate another armed robbery crew along with an undercover ATF agent. On October 25, 2007, the North Chicago Tactical Narcotics Team, agents from ATF and their SWAT officers as well as Waukegan Net Agents conducted a sting on this crew, arresting four Gangster Disciples and the recovery of a hand gun. All 4 subjects were charged through the United States Attorneys office.

Detective Rivera is truly taking criminals off the streets, making our community safer. Our district is fortunate to have police officers, like the detective, who risk their lives every day. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO MELONI

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Antonio Meloni, a tireless, energetic and effective civic activist. Antonio Meloni is devoted to his community and his family, and in recognition of his selfless dedication to the well-being of others, he was honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club of the Borough of Queens in New York City at its 76th Annual Dinner Dance.

A resident of Astoria for forty-two years, Antonio Meloni has distinguished himself for his outstanding service to the community. He has been a leader in local crime-fighting and neighborhood beautification efforts, working with at-risk youth in the Second Chance Task Force, serving as an instructor in women's self-defense courses, and working to prevent and clean up the urban blight of graffiti. Mr. Meloni has been extraordinarily active in numerous civic organizations, ranging from the Astoria-Long Island City Kiwanis Club; the 114th Precinct Community Council; the local New York City Community Emergency Response Team; the Variety Boys and Girls Club; the Knights of Columbus; the Church of the Immaculate Conception, where he serves as a Minister of Welcome; the Astoria Civic Association, which he currently serves as Vice President; and Queens Community Board 1, on which he has chaired the Public Safety Committee for many years, among many other organizations. Of Antonio Meloni's many accomplishments in service to the community, one of which he is particularly proud is the design and completion of the "Greater Love Than This" memorial to veterans of our nation's armed forces, a monument that is located next to the existing World War I Memorial in Astoria Park. In recognition of his many civic contributions, Mr. Meloni has been honored over the years by former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition, the New York City

Council, and numerous community organizations.

Next year will mark two full decades of distinguished service by Antonio Meloni as Executive Director of Immigration Advocacy Services. In this capacity, he has developed and managed countless worthwhile initiatives that have provided essential services to new arrivals to our nation's greatest city. While devoting his time and attention to this incredible range of activities, Antonio Meloni has also remained devoted to his beloved family, including his wife Denise and his two children Michael and Angela.

In being honored by the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, Antonio Meloni's achievements were recognized by one of the largest and most vibrant political and civic organizations in our nation's greatest city. The Taminent Club represents voters in the neighborhoods of Astoria and Long Island City in the New York State Assembly's 36th District and is led by its able District Leaders, the Honorable Gloria DeMarco Aloise and the Honorable George Onorato, a distinguished New York State Senator. The Taminent Club proudly carries the banner of the world's oldest political party in one of the most diverse counties in the United States of America. Borough of Queens.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions to our cultural and civic life made by Antonio Meloni.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE MODELL FAMILY

##### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the work and accomplishments of the Modell family. The Modell family migrated from Russia in the 1870s settling on the Lower East Side of New York City. They soon began peddling clothing, jewelry, and other odds and ends from a pushcart.

George Modell opened a store at 79 Cortland Street in 1893. The business moved to Nassau Street during the 1930s when George's son Louis joined and established their pawnbroking business. Louis successfully expanded and assumed leadership of the company during World War II. In 1956, Gerald, Louis' eldest son had completed his studies at Columbia University and was commissioned into the army as an officer. In 1959, he joined the Modell Jewelry & Pawnbroker business.

Gerald Modell opened a second location in 1960 on West 47th Street, in the heart of the "Diamond District," where Modell began to extend financing to the diamond and jewelry industry. In 1965, Gerald expanded by starting a diamond importing company operating in Antwerp, Tel Aviv, and Bombay.

Gerald Modell's son Eric graduated from the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce in 1997. After a 3-year career as a management consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Eric joined the family business in 2000. Today Eric is the executive vice president and is committed to expanding the business even further.

Gerald Modell has been associated with the creation and operation of many charitable and philanthropic causes, mostly in the medical field. He currently serves on an Advisory Board at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City and is the founder and former vice president of the Mental Illness Foundation.

Today the Modells have six pawnshop locations in operation throughout New York City: the Diamond District; Gramercy Park; Spanish Harlem; Brooklyn Heights; Brownsville; and Bay Ridge. Annually, Modell makes tens of thousands of loans to the public for their short-term financing needs.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank the Modell family for their nearly 115 years of service to the residents of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Modell family.

#### A LETTER FROM GOVERNOR MITCH DANIELS OF INDIANA

##### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I wish to submit into the RECORD a letter from Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels expressing his concerns regarding H.R. 2046, the Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act, which would legalize Internet gambling and undermine the ability of states to make and enforce their own gambling laws. I share Governor Daniel's opposition to this bill, and will fight to make sure H.R. 2046 does not pass the House.

STATE OF INDIANA,

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,

*Indianapolis, Indiana, November 9, 2007.*

Re Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007 (H.R. 2046)

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID, SENATOR MCCONNELL, SPEAKER PELOSI AND REPRESENTATIVE BOEHNER: As Governor of the State of Indiana, I wish to express my concerns about a bill currently in the U.S. Congress known as the Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007 ("H.R. 2046"), which would legalize Internet gambling and undermine the ability of states to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

In contrast with limited, state-regulated forms of gambling such as horse tracks and riverboat casinos, gambling via the Internet is available from virtually any location (e.g., homes, offices, schools) twenty-four hours per day in an anonymous environment. Research and studies have indicated that Internet gambling is more accessible to minors, more attractive to college-age individuals, more susceptible to fraud and other criminal activity, and harder to regulate. These are some of the reasons why Indiana recently updated its gambling laws to specifically prohibit Internet gambling. Using the Internet

to engage in gambling in Indiana, or with a person located in Indiana, is a felony under Indiana law.

Last year, in response to the growth of the Internet gambling problem, Congress passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, UIGEA, which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the U.S. marketplace. But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling operators to engage in business with U.S. customers. The Department of Treasury would alone decide who would receive federal licenses and whether the holders of those licenses were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

Furthermore, a federal license under H.R. 2046 would supersede any state enforcement action because, as written, this bill grants a "safe harbor" defense against any prosecution or enforcement under any state or federal law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. In other words, any gambling operator who obtains a license from the Treasury Department and follows the requirements of H.R. 2046 would be excused from criminal charges.

Essentially, the bill would legalize Internet gambling in each state, unless the governor of a state clearly specifies the existence of a current state restriction e.g., an existing state law) barring Internet gambling. On that basis, a state may "opt out" of the legalization of Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, this opt-out provision is problematic because it does not clearly preserve the right of states to place conditions on legal types of gambling. H.R. 2046 also does not grant Indiana any right to challenge a licensing decision by the Treasury Department or bring an enforcement action against a gambling operator who circumvents Indiana's prohibition on Internet gambling.

In addition, even if Indiana exercises this opt-out and Indiana's ban on Internet gambling remains in effect, the opt-out provision of H.R. 2046 will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization ("WTO") as a violation of U.S. trade agreements. In recent years, the WTO has ruled against the U.S. in disputes pertaining to free trade in gambling services. Accordingly, if the WTO strikes down the state opt-out provision as unduly restrictive of trade, then it is likely that we will see a significant expansion of legalized gambling in the U.S. and the preemption of state laws prohibiting or restricting Internet gambling.

I ask that you reject H.R. 2046 and any other proposals that would undermine Indiana's ban on Internet gambling.

Sincerely,

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr.,  
Governor, State of Indiana.

RECOGNIZING MABROOKA  
CHAUDHRY FOR RECEIVING THE  
MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR  
AWARD

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, an outstanding educator who has been se-

lected to receive the Milken National Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award is given to outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals. The recipients must demonstrate exceptional educational talent through their instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and the school. They must also represent themselves as leaders who engage and inspire students, colleagues, and the community.

Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, a social studies teacher at Atholton High School in Columbia, Maryland, has proven her ability in all of these areas. She empowers her students to debate and explore ideas in a safe, student-centered environment. Through online discussion groups and extensive writing assignments, she encourages students to articulate their ideas while improving their overall academic performance. Her students consistently perform well on the district's quarterly assessments in U.S. History, and 100 percent of her 2005-06 students earned a three or above on the AP American Government exam. She is currently serving as the U.S. History Curriculum Team Coordinator, and has facilitated the Multicultural Club, the Human Rights Awareness Club and the Muslim Student Association.

Ms. Chaudhry's love of her profession and the students that she teaches is evidenced by the energy she puts into her work and the achievements of her students. As someone who has been active and keenly interested in education policy throughout my professional life, I have the utmost respect for teachers like Ms. Chaudhry; she represents the passion and commitment of so many others across Maryland and the Nation who are working extremely hard to educate our children. As we work to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act, the Congress ought to be doing all it can to provide these dedicated men and women with a law and the resources to empower this commitment and passion.

Madam Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Ms. Mabrooka Chaudhry, who has been recognized as an outstanding educator and will receive the Milken National Educator Award.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP GIERS

**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and dedication of Philip Giers on the occasion of his retirement.

Philip has worked at the Veterans Administration for 37 years and on January 3rd he will retire after an impressive career. Fresh out of college, he began his service in West Haven, CT at the brand-new Blind Rehabilitation Center. Philip, a highly skilled woodworker, taught industrial arts to the blind. He then received his Masters degree in Special Education and started teaching cane travel and electronic mobility aids for the blind, where he became instrumental in the development of laser cane use and binaural sensory aid. In June of 1975, Phil and his wife, Christine, moved to Northampton, Massachusetts where he became Chief of Blind Rehabilitation at the Eastern

Blind Rehabilitation Clinic in Leeds, which covered the entire eastern seaboard (as far east as the Mississippi River) and Puerto Rico. When the Blind Rehab Clinic was finally closed, Phil continued his work in public service in the Northampton VAMC's Human Resources Department and later in Pittsfield, MA where he was given the task of opening a sheltered workshop for veterans. He will end his long, award-winning career as manager of the sheltered workshop in Leeds VAMC, where he has worked to expand the influence of the work of veterans throughout western Massachusetts.

Phil's achievements and prominence has touched millions of people here in Washington, DC, as well: he was consulted in the development of our Metro system. He was also consulted in the development of the electric car and was called upon by Australia and several African nations on handicap accessibility issues.

Phil's dedication to helping the blind extends to his life outside of the office as well. He has been a member of Lions International since 1986 and has held several leadership positions, including president. The Lions Club is an advocate for bettering the lives of those with vision problems and Phil has worked tirelessly to further their cause on the local, State, national and international levels. Besides his work with the Lions Club he has been an active member of his church, Saint Mary's, for 28 years and has also served in leadership positions in Business Networking International. He is also an active blood donor, having donated 152 pints of blood over the past 37 years.

Phil is a respected leader in his community and a dedicated family man. He has been a loving husband to Christine for 34 years and father to Erica. While he will miss his work, Phil is looking forward to working more in his antique business, traveling with his wife and playing golf. We are all grateful for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HAROLD  
DENSMORE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. William "Bill" Densmore is one of these individuals. On January 12, 2008 he will be honored at a retirement dinner.

Bill was born October 17, 1945 in Turlock, California and he was raised in the small town of Newman, California with a population of 2,500. He graduated from the prestigious University of California, Berkeley in 1967. Bill also attended Hastings College of the Law from 1967 to 1969. Bill served his country honorably in the United States Coast Guard from 1969 to 1973. In 1973, he was employed by the Riverside County Department of Veterans